

Arizona State Board for Charter Schools

January 13, 2003

Arizona Department of Education

Room 417

1535 West Jefferson

Phoenix, AZ 85007

MINUTES

Members Present

Dan Diethelm – President

Onnie Shekerjian – Vice President

Mary Gifford – Superintendent’s Designee

Robert Canchola—Public Member

Kurt Davis—Public Member

Cookie Goddard – Public Member

Mary Lynn Kelly—Business Member

Sally Kur – Public Member

Steve Twist – Business Member

Members Absent

Senator Linda Aguirre – Advisory

Representative John Huppenthal – Advisory

Representative Ted Carpenter—Advisory

Dan Diethelm called the meeting to order at approximately 9:05 a.m.

Agenda Item A – Pledge of Allegiance

Agenda Item B – Moment of Silence

Agenda Item C – Roll Call: Monica Ulloa called the roll and confirmed a quorum.

Agenda Item D— Superintendent’s Report

Superintendent’s Designee Gifford gave the Board a brief update on Superintendent Horne’s views on charter schools. The Superintendent intends to support charter schools and will look to this Board for guidance on charter schools.

Agenda Item E – Executive Director’s Report

1. Kristen gave the Board an update on the new date for the Renaissance Academy revocation hearing. The Pre-Hearing Conference was held on December 20th and the Hearing is re-scheduled for February 13-14.
2. Kristen informed the Board that the Agency will be moving to a new office in the Governors Tower January 31st.

3. Kristen informed the Board that our office has received 43 applications, 10 have been approved, and 3 were deemed incomplete.
4. The Board was informed of a re-structuring of the audit function bringing more of the review process in house. Due to budget reductions this decision was made and it is believed that it will be effective with the staff re-structuring that has occurred. All schools were sent a letter notifying them to send the audits to our office instead of to Miller Wagner and reminded them of the March 31, 2003 due date.
5. Kristen noted to the Board that the transfer of Nobel Learning Communities from Snowflake School District to our Board is waiting on resolution between the district and the charter.
6. Kristen informed the Board that the State Board of Education will host a round table with the deans of the colleges of education on January 27th. All members of the Board have been invited to participate.
7. Kristen presented the Board with background information on charter school student counts and the impact on state funding. Kristen informed the Board that for the first time this year the Department of Education is utilizing a student level detail system (SAIS) to capture the actual 40th and 100th day funding counts. The SAIS system was operational last year but was not used to calculate payments. In January the 40th day count was used for funding for the first time. Kristen informed the Board that she had supported the ADE's decision to fund on the 40th day and that she has been in close contact with ADE and the schools to work out concerns that were raised.

Dr. Mike Matwick voiced concerns he had with the SAIS reporting cycle in regard to students that have not been withdrawn from the district and are impacting the counts at his school.

Agenda Item F– Consent Agenda

1. Academy—Change in legal status and name of Charter Operator.
2. Sequoia Charter School—Change in legal status and name of Charter Operator.
3. Sequoia Village School—Change in legal

MOTION

Motion made by Steve Twist to approve all consent agenda items. Motion seconded by Bob Canchola.

Motion passed unanimously

- status and name of Charter Operator.
4. Tucson International Academy—Request for exemption from USFRCS and Procurement.
 5. Tucson International Academy—Change in legal status and name of Charter Operator.

Agenda Item G—Presentation

Lori Singleton of Valley Forward Environmental Education Program gave a presentation on Earth Day and all activities available to students through Valley Forward. Diane Brossart, President of their Board, also spoke to the Board about these activities. The Board thanked Valley Forward for the information and assured them that information would be posted on our website.

Agenda Item H—Action Items

1. New Applications

- a. **Basis Scottsdale** – Michael & Olga Block

Michael and Olga Block gave a brief presentation to the Board. The Board asked the applicants questions about their application & congratulated them on the success of their current Tucson school.

MOTION

Motion made by Steve Twist to accept the application and grant a charter to **Basis Scottsdale**. Motion seconded by Kurt Davis.

Motion passes unanimously
(Gifford and Shekerjian abstained)

- b. **Patriot Academy**—Jay Alan Brown

Jay Brown gave a brief presentation to the Board. The Board asked the applicant questions about his application.

MOTION

Motion made by Steve Twist to accept the application and grant a charter to **Patriot Academy**. Motion seconded by Onnie Shekerjian.

Motion passes
8 ayes, 1 no (Diethelm)

- c. **Pinnacle Education – East Valley No. 1 LLC** –Dr. Michael Matwick
- d. **Pinnacle Education – East Valley No. 2, LLC** –Dr. Michael Matwick
- e. **Pinnacle Education – Pinal, LLC** – Dr. Michael Matwick

Dr. Matwick gave a brief presentation to the Board. The Board asked the applicant questions about his application.

MOTION

Motion made by Kurt Davis to accept the application and grant a charter to **Pinnacle Education East Valley No. 1 LLC, Pinnacle Education East Valley No. 2, LLC, and Pinnacle Education – Pinal, LLC**. Motion seconded by Steve Twist.

Motion passes unanimously

2. Transfer Applications

- a. **Pinnacle Education – WestMark High School Chandler Blvd**– Dr. Michael Matwick
- b. **Pinnacle Education – Day Star Academy, LLC** –Dr. Michael Matwick
- c. **Pinnacle Education – Freedom Academy, LLC** – Dr. Michael Matwick
- d. **Pinnacle Education – Kino Academy, LLC** – Dr. Michael Matwick
- e. **Pinnacle Education – WestMark High School Arizona Ave**– Dr. Michael Matwick

The Board asked the applicant questions about his application.

MOTION

Motion made by Onnie Shekerjian to accept the transfer applications to **Pinnacle Education – WestMark High School Chandler Blvd, Pinnacle Education – Day Star Academy, LLC, Pinnacle Education – Freedom Academy, LLC, Pinnacle Education – Kino Academy, LLC, Pinnacle Education – WestMark High School Arizona Ave.** Motion seconded by Mary Gifford.

Motion passes unanimously
(Canchola abstains)

Agenda Item I–Additional Action Items

1. Mesa Academy for Advanced Studies

Kristen informed the Board that Mesa Academy for Advanced Studies was in it's first year of operation. The school submitted an estimated count of 90 student and were funded for these students in July and August. A site visit was made on September 6th and staff counted 14 students in attendance, 3 recorded as absent, and 2 expected later that day. Upon return to the office the staff notified School Finance to reduce their funding count to 19. On or about November 25th the staff was informed that the school was evicted from their facility resulting in the last day of session on November 22. The operator of the school informed Kristen that he intended to surrender the charter contract but no documentation has been received.

MOTION

Motion made by Steve Twist to issue a Notice of Intent to Revoke the charter of **Mesa Academy for Advanced Studies** for the reasons listed in the report. Motion seconded by Cookie Goddard.

Motion passes unanimously

2. Wide Ruins

Kristen updated the Board on the current situation regarding Wide Ruins Community School. The school has failed to provide the appropriate documentation necessary to process their request for a change in the charter representative. In addition they have failed to provide electronic SAIS counts to the ADE.

No action taken

Howard Brown attorney for the school said the issues would be quickly resolved by next meeting.

Agenda Item J— Election of Officers

MOTION

Motion made by Daniel Diethelm to elect Onnie Shekerjian as President and Kurt Davis as Vice President. Motion Seconded by Bob Canchola.

Motion passes unanimously

Agenda Item K—Approval of Minutes:

MOTION

December 9, 2002
Executive Session Minutes December 9, 2002

Motion made by Onnie Shekerjian to approve the minutes for the December 9, 2002 and Executive Session Minutes December 9, 2002. Motion seconded by Bob Canchola.

Motion passed unanimously

Agenda Item L—Call to the Public

None

MOTION

Agenda Item M—Adjournment

Motion made by Kurt Davis to adjourn the meeting.
Motion seconded by Sally Kur.

Motion passed unanimously

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:03am

Signature

Date